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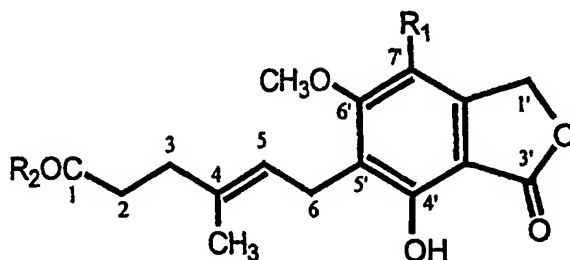
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF MYCOPHENOLIC ACID AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF



(I)

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(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a microbiological process for the preparation of compounds of general formula (I), wherein  $R_1$  means methyl or hydroxymethyl group and  $R_2$  stands for hydroxyl or amino group, which comprises growing a *Penicillium waksmani* fungal strain able to biosynthesising mycophenolic acid on a culture medium containing assimilable carbon and nitrogen sources as well as mineral salts at 22°C to 30°C, separating the compound of general formula (I), wherein  $R_1$  means methyl group and  $R_2$  stands for hydroxyl group, from the fermentation broth and, if desired, purifying it and, if desired, bioconverting it a) by using the cultures of *Streptomyces griseoruber* No. 1/6 actinomycete strain deposited at the National Collection of Agricultural and Industrial Microorganisms as *Streptomyces sp.* No. 1/6 under No. NCAIM (P)B 001275 to prepare a compound of general formula (I), wherein  $R_1$  means methyl group and  $R_2$  stands for amino group; or b) by using the cultures of *Streptomyces resistomycificus* No. 1/28 actinomycete strain deposited at the National Collection of Agricultural and Industrial Microorganisms under No. NCAIM (P)B 001276 to prepare a compound of general formula (I), wherein  $R_1$  means hydroxymethyl group and  $R_2$  stands for amino group on a culture medium containing assimilable carbon and nitrogen sources as well as mineral salts under submerged, aerated conditions up to completion of the bioconversion, then separating the compound of general formula (I) formed from the culture and, if desired, purifying it.